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FOREST HEALTH ALERT

MAY 2007

PINYON NEEDLE SCALE EGGS ARE HATCHING IN PRESCOTT

Pinyon needle scale eggs are already hatching in the Prescott area. The immature scales “crawlers” have emerged from the egg state and have attached themselves to the needles on the ends of the branches. Widespread egg hatch was first noted in Williamson Valley at the end of April. Egg hatch normally occurs first at lower elevations.

This is the stage of the insect that initiates the damage to pinyons every year. The crawlers appear as tiny dots on the needles at the ends of the branches.

It is too late to remove the egg masses which were laid by the female scales in April. The crawlers can be chemically treated using an EPA-approved insecticide. The insecticide label should state that the chemical is for treatment of “scale crawlers”.

CAUTION! Insecticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, and plants. Follow directions and heed all precautions on the labels. **(Contact a qualified and licensed professional for the proper treatment of your tree(s)).**

Consider slow, deep, and infrequent watering of the infested pinyons around your home, starting now, with a properly installed and maintained drip system, or with a soaker hose placed around the dripline of the tree. **However, please check with the Water Company in your area first, for current water restrictions.** Continue watering until the “monsoon” rains are well established.

Also refer to the Cooperative Extension watering brochure at:

<http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1298.pdf>.

For further information about this insect, or other forest health concerns in the Prescott area, contact:

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